

Dear Dear Legislators::

In the past three years, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has been cut by more than \$50 million, with most of the cuts directed at community-based Residential and Day/Employment Services. As a result, the Residential waiting list has increased to more than 2,000 people, with an additional 100 people on the Day/Employment waiting list.

Within the Governor's budget proposals for fiscal year 2017, he said "improving services for individuals with intellectual disabilities" was one of his top priorities, but then proposed funding cuts plus a 5.75% cut across the board for all state agencies.

Unfortunately, his proposed cuts would mean:

? \$15 million in cuts to DDS through annualizing of budget lapses and mitigation cuts

? \$32 million additional cuts to DDS through the 5.75% across the board proposal

If implemented, these cuts would severely impact any individuals needing DDS funded services, especially 2016 graduates.

WE can't continue to plan our state's future on short-term solutions, but rather look strategically at building a long-term plan that will not only provide quality affordable services to our most vulnerable citizens, but will also improve the state's economy.

As a parent and concerned citizen, I'm asking you to consider:

? STOPPING the proposed \$47 million cut to DDS!

? AGREEING on a plan to invest DDS institutional savings and efficiencies into funding for community-based supports for people stagnating on DDS waiting lists.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Oprende
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